

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pressure generating mechanism, comprising:
a plate member made of a piezoelectric material;
first electrodes disposed at the plate member at intervals in a plane direction of the plate member; and
second electrodes opposite to the first electrodes in a thickness direction of the plate member substantially perpendicular to the plane direction of the plate member,
the plate member comprising:
_____ active portions formed in the plate member at intervals in the plane direction of the plate member, each of the active portions being sandwiched by the corresponding first and second electrodes and deformable in the thickness direction of the plate member; and
_____ a microcrack region formed in the plate member between neighboring active portions, the microcrack region including ~~therein~~ a large number of microcracks therein.
2. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein each of the active portions is polarized in the thickness direction of the plate member.
3. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 2, wherein when a driving electric field is applied to an active portion sandwiched by the corresponding first and second electrodes, the active portion is deformed in the thickness direction of the plate member and the deformation of the active portion is prevented from propagating to the neighboring active portion by the microcrack region.

4. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the second electrodes are connected to a common wire.

5. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the microcrack region is formed through the whole thickness of the plate member.

6. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the microcrack region has the same thickness as the active portions.

7. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the microcrack region is formed over the whole length of the active portions to isolate the neighboring active portions from each other.

8. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 7, wherein each active portion is sandwiched by neighboring microcrack regions.

9. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the neighboring microcrack regions are formed continuously with each other to surround the corresponding active portion.

10. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism further comprises a third electrode and a fourth electrode disposed between the neighboring active portions, opposite to each other in the thickness direction of the plate member, and the microcrack region is formed in a region sandwiched by the third and fourth electrodes.

11. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism further comprises a third electrode disposed between the neighboring active portions, one of the first and second electrodes is elongated to a point between the neighboring active portions to be opposed to the third electrode in the thickness direction of the plate member, and the microcrack region is formed in a region sandwiched by the third electrode and the elongated electrode.

12. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the plate member comprises a plurality of piezoelectric plates put in layers, the first and second electrodes are disposed alternately between the piezoelectric plates, and the third and fourth electrodes are disposed alternately between the piezoelectric plates.

13. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 12, wherein the first and fourth electrodes are disposed on one of the piezoelectric plates, and the second and third electrodes are disposed on another one of piezoelectric plates.

14. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the plate member comprises a plurality of piezoelectric plates put in layers, the first and second electrodes are disposed alternately between the piezoelectric plates, and the microcrack region is formed in a region sandwiched by the third electrode and one of the first and second electrodes elongated to the point between the active portions.

15. (Original) The pressure generating mechanism according to claim 14, wherein at least two piezoelectric plates are sandwiched by the third electrode and the elongated electrode.

16. (Currently Amended) A liquid droplet ejection device, comprising:
a pressure generating mechanism; and
a wall member including partition walls defining liquid chambers,
the pressure generating mechanism comprising:
a plate member made of a piezoelectric material;
first electrodes disposed at the plate member at intervals in a plane direction of the plate member; and
second electrodes opposite to the first electrodes in a thickness direction of the plate member substantially perpendicular to the plane direction of the plate member,
the plate member comprising:

_____ active portions formed in the plate member at intervals in the plane direction of the plate member, each of the active portions being sandwiched by the corresponding first and second electrodes and deformable in the thickness direction of the plate member; and

_____ a microcrack region formed in the plate member between neighboring active portions, the microcrack region including ~~therein~~ a large number of microcracks therein,

the plate member being fixed to the wall member so that each of the active portions corresponds to the corresponding liquid chamber and the microcrack region corresponds to the corresponding partition wall.

17-26. (Canceled)